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## Conyers Applauds Warrantless Wiretap Decision Hopeful of Working with Administration to Provide Necessary Resources to Comply with Law

Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member on the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement in response to the ruling of Judge Anna Diggs Taylor's finding the NSA warrantless wiretapping program unconstitutional:

Today's decision by Judge Taylor in the warrantless wiretap litigation is a major victory for the rule of law in our nation. Coming on the heels of the Supreme Court's decision in Hamdan, this shows that our constitutional system is able to operate to protect the rights of innocent Americans.

I recognize the importance of our government being able to maintain wiretaps to protect our citizens against terrorism. All today's decision provides is that those wiretaps must be effectuated consistent within our legal system, which does authorize emergency wiretaps prior to obtaining a court order. I remain ready and willing to work with the Administration and the Majority in Congress to insure that any additional resources needed to comply with the law are provided on an expedited basis. That is why Rep. Harman and I proposed the LISTEN Act – to reaffirm the rule of law and to grant the Administration the resources they need comply with the legal requirements after emergency wiretaps are obtained.

Judge Taylor's decision was straightforward and direct, holding that the warrantless surveillance program "violates the [Administrative Procedure Act]; the Separation of Powers doctrine; the First and Fourth Amendments of the United States Constitution; and the statutory law."

I strongly believe it is essential that we come together as a nation to confront religious extremism and despicable regimes abroad as well as terrorist tactics at home. However, I don't believe we advance the cause of fighting terrorism if our government takes constitutionally dubious short cuts of little law enforcement value that alienate the very groups in this country whose cooperation is central to fighting this seminal battle.

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